

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A remote data processing system comprising:  
a data receiver for receiving a data message;  
a remote software module arranged to receive the data message from the data receiver, the remote software module including at least a first stage software component cascaded with a second stage software component; and  
a fault detector associated with the first software stage component and the second software stage component to detect a fault in the remote software module by detecting whether the data message or a derivative thereof flows entirely through at least one of the first stage software component and the second stage software component, wherein the fault detector has logical connections including a connection with an input of the first software stage component, an output of the first software stage component, and an output of second software stage component and ~~The system according to claim 8~~ wherein the fault detector identifies the first software stage as a faulty software component if the data message is present at an input of the first software stage, but not the output of the first software stage.

10. (currently amended) A remote data processing system comprising:  
a data receiver for receiving a data message;  
a remote software module arranged to receive the data message from the data

receiver, the remote software module including at least a first stage software component

cascaded with a second stage software component; and

a fault detector associated with the first software stage component and the second software stage component to detect a fault in the remote software module by detecting whether the data message or a derivative thereof flows entirely through at least one of the first stage software component and the second stage software component, wherein the fault detector has logical connections including a connection with an input of the first software stage component, an output of the first software stage component, and an output of second software stage component and ~~The system according to claim 8~~ wherein the fault detector identifies the second software stage as a faulty software component if the data message is present at an input of the second software stage, but not the output of the second software stage.

11. (currently amended) A remote data processing system comprising:

a data receiver for receiving a data message;

a remote software module arranged to receive the data message from the data receiver, the remote software module including at least a first stage software component cascaded with a second stage software component; and

a fault detector associated with the first software stage component and the second software stage component to detect a fault in the remote software module by detecting whether the data message or a derivative thereof flows entirely through at least one of the first stage software component and the second stage software component, wherein the fault detector has logical connections including a connection with an input of the first software stage component, an output of the first software stage component, and an output of second

software stage component and ~~The system according to claim 8~~ wherein the fault detector identifies the first software stage as a faulty software component if a derivative of the data message is present at an input of the first software stage, but not the output of the first software stage.

12. (currently amended) A remote data processing system comprising:  
a data receiver for receiving a data message;  
a remote software module arranged to receive the data message from the data  
receiver, the remote software module including at least a first stage software component  
cascaded with a second stage software component; and  
a fault detector associated with the first software stage component and the  
second software stage component to detect a fault in the remote software module by detecting  
whether the data message or a derivative thereof flows entirely through at least one of the first  
stage software component and the second stage software component, wherein the fault  
detector has logical connections including a connection with an input of the first software  
stage component, an output of the first software stage component, and an output of second  
software stage component and ~~The system according to claim 8~~ wherein the fault detector identifies the second software stage as a faulty software component if a derivative of the data message is present at an input of the second software stage, but not the output of the second software stage.

Claims 13-21 (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A method of monitoring a business-to-business system, the method comprising:

transmitting a status code from a base data processing system to a remote data processing system via a communications network;

receiving the status code at a data receiver in the remote data processing system;

inputting the status code into a remote software module of the remote data processing system;

determining whether the remote software module provides a logical data path of continuity to the status code;

outputting the status code from an output of the remote software module if the determining determines that the remote software module provides a logical data path of continuity to the status code; and

transmitting the outputted status code back to the base data processing system via the communications network as feedback indicative of the proper end-to-end continuity of communications in a business-to-business environment.

23. (original) The method according to claim 22, the method further comprising:  
storing the status code from an output of the remote software module as a dummy transaction in the database; and

retrieving the status code as the dummy transaction in the database and feeding the retrieved status code for transmission to the base data processing system if the database provides a logical data path of continuity for the status code.